GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:57
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
PADDY YEAR
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether some organizations under UNO has decided to observe the year 2004 as the `Paddy Year`;

(b) . if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to promote paddy in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (shri kanti lal bhuria)

(a): Yes, Sir. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has decided to observe the year 2004 as International Year of Rice.

(b): The aim of International Year of Rice is to promote improved production of- and access to - this vital food crop, which feeds more than half the world`s population while providing income for millions. The year will act as a catalyst for country - driven programmes throughout the world to engage the entire community of stake holders, from rural farmers to the scientific institutions that mapped the rice genome, in the mission to increase rice production in a manner that promotes sustainability and equity.

(c): Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Rice (ICDP-Rice) to promote rice cultivation in the country. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 to provide flexibility to States based on local needs. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement, production of certified seeds, etc., as per the work plan of the State Governments. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields.